

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 09904544.0716041
1. A method for managing microcode, comprising the steps of:
evaluating a mode command to initiate or change a mode, said mode having one or more phases; and
identifying a phase module sequence in response to said evaluated mode command, wherein said phase module sequence includes at least one phase module containing microcode to implement a corresponding phase.
 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying a phase module sequence further comprises the step of:
querying a storage medium to select a phase module to match said mode.
 3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
loading said phase module sequence into a microcode instruction memory.
 4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
loading a sequence list into a microcode data memory, wherein said sequence list includes a memory address to said phase module sequence.
 5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
executing said phase module sequence to implement said mode.
 6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
sending a result from said executing said phase module sequence to a processor for pixel processing or additional microcode processing.

7. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
sending drawing data to a microcode processor prior to said
executing said phase module sequence.
8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
sending drawing data to a microcode processor to render three
dimensional graphics, prior to said executing said phase module sequence.
9. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
sending drawing data to a microcode processor to render an
animation scene, prior to said executing said phase module sequence.
10. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
sending drawing data to a microcode processor to render a
scene for a video game, prior to said executing said phase module sequence.
11. A system for managing microcode, comprising:
mode detector for evaluating a mode command to initiate or
change a mode, said mode having one or more phases; and
sequence identifier for identifying a phase module sequence,
wherein said phase module sequence includes at least one phase module
containing microcode to implement a corresponding phase.
12. A system of claim 11, further comprising a code loader for
loading said phase code sequence into a microcode instruction memory.
13. A system of claim 11, further comprising:
phase executor for commanding a microcode processor to
execute said phase code sequence.

14. A system of claim 11, further comprising:
drawing data processor for sending drawing data or input for
drawing data to a microcode processor in response to said mode command.

15. A system of claim 11, further comprising:
drawing data processor for sending drawing data or input for
drawing data to a microcode processor to render a three dimensional model in
response to said mode command.

16. A system of claim 11, further comprising:
drawing data processor for sending drawing data or input for
drawing data to a microcode processor to render an animation scene in
response to said mode command.

17. A system of claim 11, further comprising:
microcode data memory for storing a sequence list specifying a
memory address to each phase module within said phase module sequence.

18. A computer program product comprising a computer useable
medium having computer readable program code means embedded in said
medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer used to
manage microcode, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a first computer readable program code means for causing the
computer to evaluate a mode command to initiate or change a mode, said
mode having one or more phases; and

a second computer readable program code means for causing
the computer to identify a phase module sequence, said phase module
sequence including at least one phase module that contains microcode to
implement a corresponding phase.

19. A computer program product according to claim 18, wherein said second computer readable program code means loads said phase code sequence into a microcode instruction memory.

20. A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

a third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to command a microcode processor to execute said phase code sequence.

21. A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

a third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to send drawing data or input for drawing data to a microcode processor in response to said mode command.

22. A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

a third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to send drawing data or input for drawing data to a microcode processor to render three-dimensional graphics in response to said mode command.

23. A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

a third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to store a sequence list specifying a memory address to each phase module within said phase module sequence.